

*Disturbances at Vaikam.*

59. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state

(a) whether they have received any report about the occurrences on the Vaikam temple roads during the last thirty days;

(b) whether they are aware of the fact that an *anti-Satyagraha* movement has recently been started at Vaikam by a few caste-Hindus;

(c) whether it is a fact that disturbances have taken place between the *Satyâgrahis* and the *anti-Satyagrahis* outside the barricade on the western road, and that several *Satyagrahis* have been brutally assaulted by the *anti-Satyagrahis*;

(d) whether the Police were present at or near the spot during these disturbances;

(e) whether it is true that the Police have been conniving at acts of violence committed on the public road; and

(f) who were the Police officers specially stationed at Vaikam during the last thirty days and whether the Acting Commissioner of Police visited Vaikam during this period and, if so, on what dates?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d), & (e) The member is referred to the answer to Mr. Panjikaran's question.

(f) Information will be called for.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether the disturbance which took place between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam was outside the barricade or inside it?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There was no question of disturbance.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): The answer to my question whether it is a fact that disturbances have taken place, is that the member is referred to the answer given to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question. From the Press Communiqué I find that there were disturbances between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis*. I want to know whether those disturbances were outside the barricade or inside it.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean the temple side or the other side of the barricade, i. e. the east or the west?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): The west, and not the temple side.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe so.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Was it not on the public road?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Of course. The other side of the barricade means the road.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise that the roads leading up to the barricade are public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know what the member means by "public road". That itself remains to be explained.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I explain it, Sir?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I mean by a public road a road which every person can use as of right.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already stated that it was some distance outside the barricade. Up to the barricade everybody had a right to pass.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): So, may I take it that the roads leading up to the barricade were public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They were allowed to pass. There was no restriction.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Then it must be a public road.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think it is a matter for argument.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise the distinction between public roads and other roads in the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Do the roads leading up to the barricade come under the category of public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is to say, roads which are used by other communities as well. (Laughter.)

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Am I entitled to get a direct answer to the question?

PRESIDENT: You are not entitled. You are drawing him into a discussion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A resolution has been tabled for that purpose.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise any distinction between the roads leading to the barricade and other roads understood to be public roads in other parts of the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know how that arises from the question itself.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): My question is, do the Government recognise any distinction between the Vaikam roads leading up to the barricade and other roads ordinarily known as public roads throughout the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My point is whether that question arises really out of the question before the House.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid the question does not relate to the character of the roads at all.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): My question is relevant.

PRESIDENT: Your main question does not relate to the character of the roads.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): The object of my question is to point out that the Police were bound to prevent a breach of the peace if the roads are public roads. It is for that purpose that I have asked that question. The whole question relates to that.

PRESIDENT: But that does not arise out of your main question, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): My question is only whether it is a public road.

PRESIDENT: I must say it does not arise out of question (c) and the answer to it.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is not the duty of the Police to prevent breach of the peace on the road?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly, it is.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): How long did the disturbances continue?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think they continued for a long time. When they were obstructing, they were informed that action would be taken and certainly they yielded.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): How long did the anti-Satyagrahis prevent the Satyagrahis from going near the barricade?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I want notice of that question.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumannur*): Have the Police done anything to prevent a breach of the peace between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Press Communiqué distinctly says that they ceased to do so.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumannur*): The Press Communiqué does not say that.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar just a little while ago said that the *anti-Satyagrahis* were spoken to and they stopped the procession.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumannur*): May I know Sir, whether it was on the request of the Police that the *anti-Satyagrahis* stopped their campaign against the *Satyagrahis*?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar has already said that.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I suppose that the District Magistrate and the Police would have acted together.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumannur*): May I know whether the Ag. Police Commissioner was present at the time when the *anti-Satyagrahis* made disturbances?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I would refer the member to the speech made by the Police Commissioner during the general discussion on the budget. He has stated on which days he was present at the station.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumannur*): Was it a fact that there was a conference of the Police officials just on the day previous to the disturbances?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware.

*Roads round Vaikam Temple.*

60. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (1) Are the Government aware that, at a meeting of caste-Hindus held at Chengannur on the 23rd Mithunam, 1099, a resolution was passed requesting them to throw open the road round the Vaikam temple to non-caste Hindus also?

(2) Have the Government received the resolutions of the meeting?

(3) If they have, will they be pleased to state what action they have taken thereon?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The resolutions have been placed on the file along with the papers dealing with the same subject.